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ON THE IDENTITY OF THE SUB SPECIES OF *IPOMAEA PES-CAPRAE* (LINN.) SWT. IN INDIA

Ipomaea pes-caprae (Linn.) Swt. is reportedly occurring throughout India, abundant especially near the coasts. The author, in the course of his taxonomic studies, collected two distinct types of the above species. One of them, which has a preference for coastal regions, fully agreed with *I. pes-caprae* (Linn.) Swt. (*I. biloba* Forsk. F. B. I. iv: 212) described in the Flora of the Presidency of Madras by J. S. Gamble. The other type which is abundant in the coastal as well as inland areas was identified at Kew as *I. pes-caprae* sub sp. *brasiliensis* (Linn.) Oostr. On consulting Flora Malesiana (1/4: 475-477, 1948-1954) the author came to understand that *I. pes-caprae* consists of two subspecies viz. *I. pes-caprae* sub sp. *pes-caprae* and *I. pes-caprae* sub sp. *brasiliensis* (Linn.) Oostr. Of these two subspecies the first is the one described in the Indian Floras as *I. pes-caprae* (Linn.) Swt. The second is an addition to the Indian Flora.

Both these subspecies are abundant in Kera'a State. As there are a number of well defined and clearly discernable characters of distinction between the two, it is easy to distinguish them.

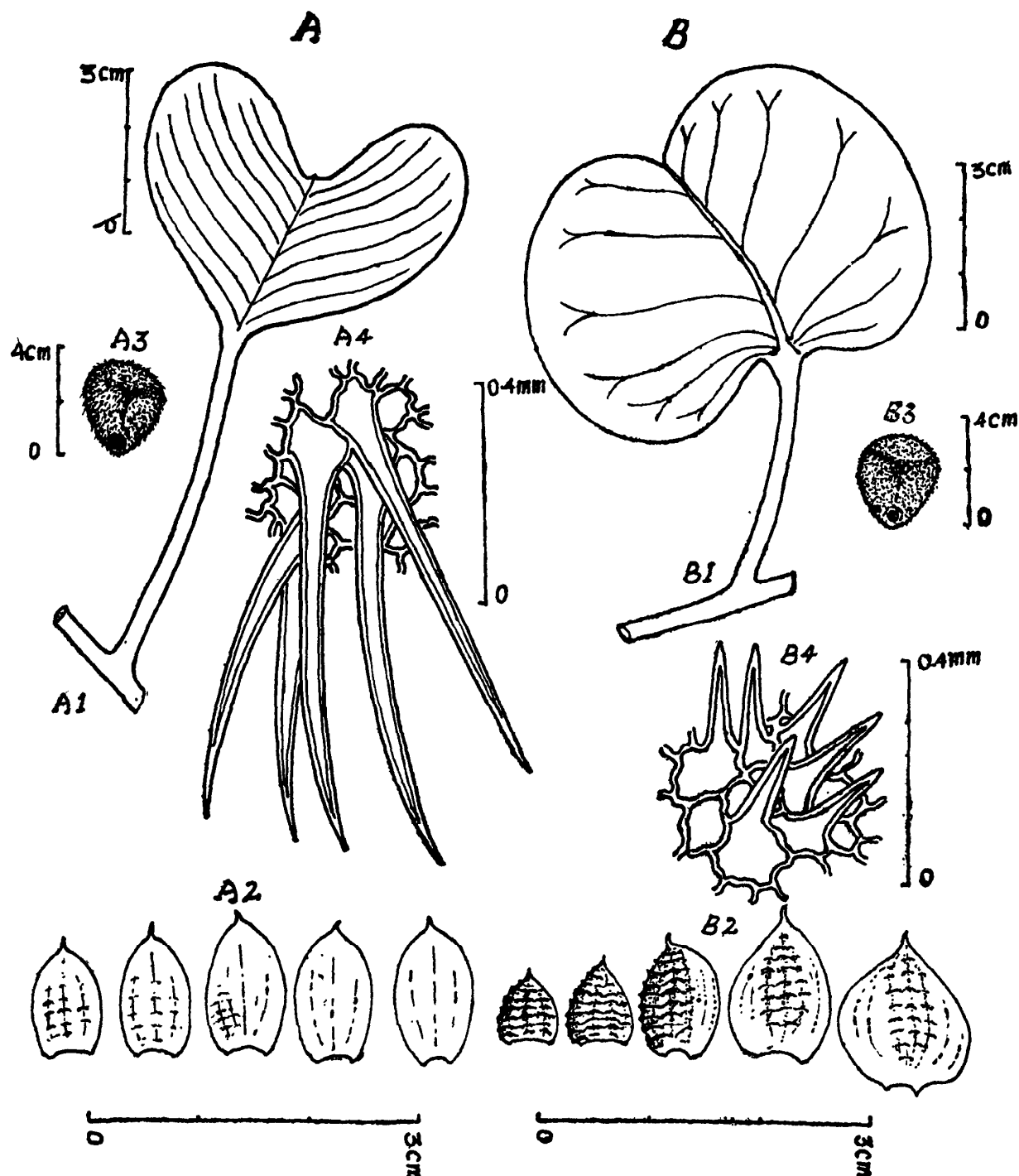
On the basis of studies made on fresh specimens collected from different parts of Kerala and herbarium specimens in different Herbaria, MH including, the author has

noted the following characters of distinction between the two. For the benefit of Indian taxonomists these differences are given below:

<i>I. pes-caprae</i> sub sp. <i>pes-caprae</i>	<i>I. pes-caprae</i> sub sp. <i>brasiliensis</i>
1. Leaves deeply lobed at the apex at an obtuse or sub-acute angle	Leaves emarginate at the apex
2. Lateral veins prominent and parallel	Venation typically reticulate
3. Flowers purple-red	Flowers purple-red or pure white
4. Outer sepals smooth to slightly wrinkled	Outer sepals prominently wrinkled
5. Ovary basally 4-celled ; stigma 2-lobed	Ovary basally 4- or 6-celled and stigma 2- or 3-lobed
6. Seeds covered with thick long tomentum	Seeds covered with very short tomentum

Two herbarium sheets of *I. pes-caprae* sub sp. *brasiliensis*, 4950, January 1974, Quilon, Kerala State and 4990, April 1974, Punalur, Kerala State, both collected by the author have been deposited in the Herbarium of the Southern Circle of the Botanical Survey of India, Coimbatore (MH).

Herbarium specimens examined: (*I. pes-caprae* sub sp. *brasiliensis*) Cochin, Kerala State, P. T. Tommy, 94266, November, 1932 (MH); Tellicherry, Kerala State, T. Gopala Rao, 88128, September, 1945 (MH); Quilon, Kerala State, D. Dannel, 93590, May, 1949 (MH); Kaladi Range, Kerala



A. *Ipomaea pes-caprae* sub sp. *pes-caprae*
 A1. A single leaf. A2. Sepals. A3. Seed. A4. Hairs on the seed surface.
 B. *Ipomaea pes-caprae* sub sp. *brasiliensis*
 B1. A single leaf. B2. Sepals. B3. Seed. B4. Hairs on the seed surface.

State, Ramamurthi, 25965, March, 1966 (MH).

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